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Historic Jonesboro, Tennessee

Jonesborough, Tennessee, is a town steeped in history and charm. Established in 1779, it's recognized as Tennessee's oldest town, offering a window into the past with its well-preserved architecture and rich storytelling heritage. The town's Main Street is a journey through time, with buildings that have stood for centuries and stories that echo the diverse and vibrant history of the region. Notably, Jonesborough was a welcoming community even in the 19th century, as evidenced by the successful establishment of Jewish merchants Herman Cone and Jacob Adler, who

found a home for their business and families here after facing discrimination elsewhere.

The town also has a significant place in African American history, with Ernest McKinney being elected as an alderman on the day of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, and later, his son Kevin McKinney becoming Jonesborough's first African American mayor. The storytelling tradition is particularly strong in Jonesborough, home to the International Storytelling Festival, which draws thousands of visitors each October to celebrate this ancient art. The Heritage Alliance of Northeast Tennessee & Southwest Virginia actively preserves

this history through various programs and invites visitors to explore the historic sites.

For those looking to experience the historic charm of Jonesborough, there are numerous activities to enjoy. From antique shopping and historical tours to tasting spirits at the Tennessee Hills Distillery, the town offers a blend of cultural and recreational experiences. The Chester Inn, a historical building dating back to the 18th century, has hosted several presidents and remains a symbol of the town's rich past.

Jonesborough's commitment to preserving and celebrating its history is evident in the care taken

to maintain its historical sites and the enthusiasm with which it shares its stories. Whether it's through the annual storytelling festival, the walking tours of the historic district, or the educational programs offered by the Heritage Alliance, Jonesborough continues to honor its past while welcoming visitors to be a part of its ongoing story. This blend of history, culture, and community makes Jonesborough a unique and enriching place to visit.